A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

ISLAND OF ST. JOHN,

IN THE

GULF OF ST. LAURENCE,

NORTH AMERICA;

WITH

A MAP OF THE ISLAND,

AND A FEW

CURSORY OBSERVATIONS

RESPECTING THE

CLIMATE, NATURAL PRODUCTIONS, AND ADVANTAGES OF ITS SITUATION,

IN REGARD TO

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE;

TOGETHER WITH

SOME REMARKS, AS INSTRUCTIONS TO NEW SETTLERS.

BY A

PERSON MANY YEARS RESIDENT THERE.

LONDON:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY R. ASHBY, NO. 5, KING-STREET, CHEAPSIDE, AND W. WINCHESTER, NO. 61, STRAND.

[*Entered at Stationers-Hall.*]

ADVERTISEMENT.

THERE being but a very ſhort and imperfect account of the Iſland of ST. JOHN in any of the preſent Geographical Publications, it is preſumed this Deſcription will be acceptable to the Proprietors of Lands therein, who reſide in Great-Britain, as it will enable them to give every neceſſary information to thoſe whom they wiſh to ſend out as Settlers, and alſo contribute to make the Iſland more generally known.

A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

ISLAND OF ST. JOHN.

SITUATION AND EXTENT.

	Miles.		
Length	120	Between	61 and 64 West Longitude.
Breadth	30		46 and 47 North Latitude.

Situation.]—IT lies in the Gulf of Saint Laurence, North America, and is separated from Nova-Scotia, on the South, by a channel from three to six leagues in width. It is distant from Cape Breton, on the East, about fifteen leagues; and has New Brunswick and Lower Canada on the North-West, distant, to different points, from eight to twenty leagues.

Rivers and Bays].—The Island is intersected with numerous bays and rivers; so that there are very few places that are at a greater distance than six miles from the flowing of the tide, and none above eight miles. The principal rivers are those called Hillsborough, Eliot, York, Cardigan, Brudenell, and Montagu, which are large enough to admit ships of the line. Dunk, Ellis, Vernon, and Murray rivers, will contain vessels of 300 tons burthen, by taking advantage of the tide; and there are many other rivers which are navi-

gable for veſſels to 100 tons and upwards. Pownall, Orwell, Richmond, Grenville, Harris, Bedford, Saint Peter's, Colville, and Cardigan bays, afford good and ſafe anchorage for veſſels from 100 tons to the largeſt burthen.

Air and Climate.]—The air is remarkably clear; a fog is rarely to be ſeen throughout the year. From the beginning to the middle of April, the ice in the rivers breaks up, the navigation is open, and the inhabitants begin their fiſhing, agriculture, and gardening. The Spring is very rapid, and the degree of heat in Summer is much the ſame as in England, but more regular: the Autumn is long and pleaſant; the Winter in general ſets in from the middle to the latter end of December, at which time the rivers and bays begin to be frozen over, and the ſnow to fall; after which it continues a ſteady froſt, with a very clear air, with intervals of ſnow-falls; ſometimes the ſnow is accompanied with boiſterous winds; the ſnow in the woods is in general from two to three feet deep on an average: the bracing cold in the winter is far more healthy, and, to many people, much more pleaſant to bear, than the variety and ſudden changes of the weather in England.

Face of the Country, and Natural Productions.]—The country is in general level, interſperſed with gentle riſings and gradual deſcents, there being but few large hills on the Iſland. It abounds with ſprings of the fineſt water, and as the rivers are very numerous, there are a great many excellent ſituations for mills. The far greater part of the Iſland is in its original wild and uncultivated ſtate, covered with groves of various kinds of trees, among which are the following, the white and yellow pine, the hemlock, the red, white, and black ſpruce trees, two or three kinds of fir trees, and the larch tree; all of which are deſcribed by the inhabitants as ſoft wood trees: there are alſo oak, aſh, elm, poplar, and cedar trees, but not in great plenty. The moſt prevailing

prevailing hard wood trees are, birch, beech, and maple; of the former there are three kinds, the white, yellow, and black; the white or curled maple, and the black or ſugar maple trees, and various other kinds of trees and ſhrubs. There are alſo wild cherries, gooſeberries and currants; and the wild raſpberries, ſtrawberries, cranberries, and blueberries, are in ſome parts in great abundance, and very fine. A fruit in this Iſland, called the Indian Pear, is very delicious. There are a great many ſalt, and ſome inland marſhes, from which conſiderable quantities of hay are cut.

Tame and Wild Fowl and Birds.]—Turkies, geeſe, ducks, and other poultry, are in plenty. Wild geeſe and brant, and various kinds of wild ducks, are in very large flocks in the Spring and Autumn, and flocks of wild pigeons in the Summer. A great many partridges, much larger and finer than in England; ſeveral ſorts of plovers and ſnipes; the large grey and black eagle; different kinds of hawks and owls, the raven and the crow, and many birds of beautiful plumage, are found in the woods: various other kinds of birds appear, as the inhabitants extend their improvements; among which are the ſpring-bird, the robin, a blackbird, and the ſnowbird, and the beautiful humming-bird frequents the gardens.

Fiſh.]—The Fiſh of this Iſland are, cod, herrings, mackarel, ſalmon, ſalmon-trout, baſs, haddock, ſturgeon, perch, flounders, eels, ſmelts, tomy-cod, elwives, &c. &c. moſt of theſe in great abundance; alſo lobſters and oyſters, which are eaſy to be obtained in many of the bays and rivers, and many kinds of ſhell and other fiſh, ſeals, and ſea-cows.

Animals.]—There are black cattle, ſheep, hogs and horſes; ſome bears, wild cats, red, ſilver-grey, and black foxes, otters, martins, minks, muſk-rats, and ſeveral kinds of ſquirrels; a great

a great number of hares, which are grey in Summer, and white in Winter: no reptile is here to be met with, except a ſmall harmleſs ſnake.

Soil and Produce.]—The ſoil is deep and light, but very fertile, if properly cultivated; in moſt places there are few or no ſtones to be ſeen, except on the ſhores, or by digging three or four feet for them. The land produces very good wheat, barley, oats, rye, peas, &c. and the various ſorts of vegetables, as in England, ſuch as potatoes, parſnips, carrots, cabbages, peas, the different kinds of beans, aſparagus, cauliflowers, onions, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, radiſhes, lettuces, celery, &c. &c. Hops grow exceedingly well, with little trouble. The Engliſh apple and cherry trees thrive very well, the garden gooſeberry and currant trees yield very great crops. The land produces very good herbage, both for hay and paſturing of cattle, which thrive extremely well; the farmers, in general, have good ſtocks of black cattle, ſheep, hogs, and horſes: the ſheep, for the moſt part, produce double, and ſcarcely a diſeaſe is ever known amongſt them.

Government, Commerce, Towns, and Military Strength. The Iſland is governed by a Lieutenant Governor, Council, and General Aſſembly, by whom the Laws are enacted: the Council conſiſts of ſix or eight Members, who are appointed by the Governor, and, by the King's inſtruction, are to be Proprietors and principal Landholders. The General Aſſembly are eighteen in number, who are choſen by a majority of the Landholders, Leaſeholders, and reſident Houſekeepers. All laws that reſpect property, are, by the King's inſtruction, to have a clauſe to ſuſpend their operation till they have been ſent to England and received the Royal Aſſent. The only tax paid here is a ſmall duty on liquors imported, which is appropriated to the

the purpoſe of improving the roads, and other inſular expences. The commerce is, at preſent, chiefly confined to the exportation of cattle and ſheep, with other productions of the farm, which the inhabitants ſend to Newfoundland, and of wheat, and other grain, which is ſent to Halifax. Some perſons have carried on a conſiderable trade in the cod and herring fiſheries; the produce of which they ſend to Europe and the Weſt Indies, and lumber, oil, ſkins, and furs, to England. The towns, laid down on the plan, or general ſurvey of the Iſland, are Prince Town, Charlotte Town, and George Town; but Charlotte Town, which is the ſeat of Government, is the only one that bears any reſemblance to a town yet. It is pleaſantly ſituated, and regularly laid out, and conſiſts of about ſixty or ſeventy houſes, and forms a pleaſing view on entering the harbour. It has two forts and a block-houſe, and there are two companies of ſoldiers in the garriſon in war time, and the militia of the Iſland for its defence againſt privateers.

Number of Inhabitants, and general Employment.]—The inhabitants, in the year 1795 (to which period this deſcription alludes) were computed to be about five thouſand in number, which conſiſts chiefly of emigrants from England, Ireland, Scotland, the States of America, and a few from Germany. There are alſo about ſix or ſeven hundred of the original Acadian French ſettlers, who occupy three villages, and live comfortably by farming and fiſhing. The generality of the inhabitants are employed in farming, except a very few mechanics, ſuch as blackſmiths, carpenters, ſhipwrights, millwrights, coopers, ſhoe-makers, weavers, and maſons; and ſome few in the cod and herring fiſheries, as they can ſpare time from their farms, which may be carried on to great advantage, as the Iſland becomes more populous; the fiſhing-banks extending all along the north and north-eaſt coaſts of the Iſland, where a great number of

veſſels come from the States of America to catch fiſh. The farmers begin to plow and ſow in April; they endeavour to get all their Summer wheat ſowed before the 10th of May, but it is generally the latter end of that month, or the beginning of June, before they have all their oats, barley, peas, and potatoes, in the ground, as labourers are ſcarce; notwithſtanding, as vegetation is quick, they begin to reap about the middle of Auguſt. Between ſeed-time and harveſt, ſome are employed in burning the wood that has been cut in the winter for clearing new land, and ſome in cutting and making hay. The Autumn being long and pleaſant, in the early part of it, ſome ſow their Winter wheat, and afterwards get up their potatoes, which they raiſe in great quantities. In the Winter, ſome are employed in cutting the trees down for clearing new land; thoſe that are expert with the axe (which moſt are who were brought up in the country) will cut an acre of wood down in eight or ten days, and cut it up in ten or twelve feet lengths, ready to pile, for burning in the Summer; others are employed in threſhing their corn and getting home their hay for their cattle, which are moſtly houſed in the winter nights; ſome in cutting and bringing home their fire-wood and making lumber, ſuch as ſhingles, laths, hoops, ſtaves, &c. and cutting and carrying pine-logs for the ſaw-mills. Some of the women are employed in ſpinning wool, and in knitting ſtockings and mitts; the flax, which they raiſe in Summer, is made into coarſe cloth. Some of the families make upwards of two hundred yards of woollen and linen cloth in a year; and many families make two or three hundred weight of ſugar, in the early part of the Spring, before the ſnow is thawed in the woods, from the ſap of the maple trees; they likewiſe make very good butter and cheeſe, and raiſe as much poultry as they chooſe to keep.

Religion.]—There are a few perſons who attend the Eſtabliſhed Church once in a week; the far greater part are Diſſenters,

Diſſenters, of one deſcription or other; but as they have but few religious meetings, and not any miniſters, their ſabbath-days are generally filled up with looking over their paſt week's induſtry, and in viſiting their neighbours. When any diſſenting miniſter has happened to viſit the Iſland from the Continent, many of the inhabitants have attended, with an apparent deſire to be inſtructed. The native French, and Highland Scotch, are Roman Catholics, who meet regularly for worſhip every ſabbath-day, and have a prieſt or two who reſide among them.

General Remarks.]—This Iſland, which poſſeſſes ſo many natural advantages, ſuch as a good ſoil, the fineſt water, a clear air, good harbours, and fine rivers, with abundance of fiſh and wild-fowl, and good timber for houſe and ſhip-building, and furniture, would, in all probability, have been in a much forwarder ſtate of ſettlement, but for the following reaſons. It was originally granted by Government in townſhips of twenty thouſand acres each, and half townſhips to officers who had ſerved in the army and navy, and others; the far greater part of whom have not taken the leaſt pains to ſend ſettlers to their lands, but have apparently lain by to reap a future benefit from the active exertions of other proprietors: and a difference ſome time ſince prevailed between ſome of the Civil Officers of the Government and ſome of the Proprietors and Merchants, which has been very detrimental to the trade of the Iſland: and the preſent and the late war have intervened, ſo as to diſcourage emigration during thoſe periods. Some perſons, who are inclined to emigrate, give a preference to the Government and advanced ſtate of ſettlement of the United States of America, it being much better known. Yet there are but few places in the States of America, from the beſt accounts, that are equal in fertility and natural advantages to this Iſland: and the four diſeaſes mentioned in Winterbotham's recent Hiſtory of

America, namely, nervous diſorders, rheumatiſms, intermitting fevers, and premature loſs of teeth; as there ſo prevalent, by no means apply to this Iſland; it being extremely healthy; many of the native French evince the truth of this by their longevity. In the States of America, the lands, for a conſiderable diſtance from the ſea coaſts, are chiefly occupied; the back lands are raiſed much in price, and the diſtance from a market is a conſtant and unavoidable drawback on the active exertions of the induſtrious farmers: but there is no ſituation on this Iſland but where they may have eaſy acceſs to navigable rivers, and have a conſtant market for their produce at Newfoundland and Halifax; the Weſt Indies and Europe will alſo afford a market for them in their more advanced ſtate of ſettlement, agriculture, and commerce. It has the advantage of Canada in ſome points of commerce, not only on account of the fiſhing-banks extending round the coaſt, but, that the inhabitants of this Iſland can make two voyages to the Weſt Indies in the Summer, whereas from Canada only one can be made. It is well known, that the principal part of the farmers, who raiſe conſiderable crops of grain, and poſſeſs ſtocks of cattle, from twenty to ſixty head, beſides flocks of ſheep, hogs, horſes, &c. came to this Iſland with very little, and many with no property whatever. The proſpect of arriving at ſuch a ſituation ſtimulates the young farmer to encounter with pleaſure, and perſevering aſſiduity, the difficulties of his infant farm; ſuch as the hardeſt work in his loweſt circumſtances; and the moſquitoes (to which the woodlands throughout America are ſubject) being ſimilar to an Engliſh gnat, are moſt troubleſome the three or four Summer months, in new farms, eſpecially to ſtrangers the firſt year or two. Thoſe, who come here with no property, generally work for others a few years, till they have acquired a little ſtock; and after ſuch have began to farm, they can get aſſiſtance by working for the neighbouring farmers, till they have brought their own farms gradually forward. An infant country is

by

by no means calculated for indolent perſons, except they have ſome income to live on; but there is a moral certainty of an induſtrious perſon bettering his circumſtances every year, with the ſame or leſs degree of labour than muſt of neceſſity be uſed in England, to procure a bare or ſcanty ſubſiſtance, with no other proſpect in old age than the aid afforded him by the pariſh: whereas, in ſuch a country as this, unincumbered with tithes or taxes, and the land in its original ſtate, at about one ſhilling per acre annually for ever, or farms to be purchaſed on eaſy terms, his ordinary induſtry will ſoon procure him a comfortable proviſion, with the ſatisfactory proſpect of ſeeing his family follow his example, who are rendered ſtill more comfortable by the aid he can ſoon afford them. A large family, to a man in low circumſtances, may here be very properly conſidered a great bleſſing, as they can all aſſiſt their parents to great advantage during their minority, and are under no neceſſity of being ſent from home, and by that means frequently expoſed to many vices in ſeeking a livelihood; on the contrary, they remain with their parents, who, to encourage them to induſtry, generally make them a preſent of a calf, or a ſheep, when they are young, which, by the time they are of age to ſettle for themſelves, will have increaſed to ſeveral heads; ſo that, with a little further aſſiſtance from the parents of a young couple, they begin on a new farm with an encouraging proſpect.

Perſons, with a few hundred pounds, may ſoon place themſelves in a comfortable ſituation, and of courſe will be relieved from many of the inconveniences, which thoſe who have no property are at firſt ſubjected to.

Some perſons who have emigrated to America have been extremely diſappointed, by not having, in their ideas, made a proper allowance for the difference of an infant country, compared to thoſe ſcenes they have been accuſtomed to;

others there are who read of the productions and advantages of America, but do not ſufficiently conſider, that if they emigrate there with little or no property, it muſt be by their gradual and perſevering induſtry that they can obtain the comforts and conveniencies of life.

Perſons of ſmall property, who may be deſirous of emigrating to this Iſland for the purpoſe of farming, are naturally led to enquire, how they are to diſpoſe of a family on their landing there, and the beſt and cheapeſt method of proceeding? To which it may be anſwered—If the perſon has not fixed on the ſpot he intends to make his reſidence previous to his leaving his native country, it will be expedient, immediately on his arrival (ſuppoſe at Charlotte Town), after having obtained accommodations for his family (which will not be difficult), to apply to ſome perſons in the Town, who for the moſt part are able and ready to inform a ſtranger, who have lands to leaſe or diſpoſe of, and the part of the Iſland in which they are ſituated. It will then be proper to go and examine the ſpot, or perhaps ſeveral, in order to make the beſt choice. There are many places to be had, where the farms front a navigable river, or a bay. In Winterbotham's Hiſtory, before alluded to, is the following information, which will apply to this Iſland: "When a ſettler "fixes on a ſpot of land, his firſt care is to cut down a few "trees to build his log-houſe. A man can cut down and "lop from twenty to thirty in a day, of the ſize proper for "the purpoſe. Theſe form the walls of the building. In "general the log-cabins of this kind are ſuch as half a dozen "men will eaſily finiſh in three or four days (ſay a week); "ten guineas worth of labour, thus employed, will lodge a "family quite as comfortable as in the better kind of cottages "in England."

Such log-houſes may be enlarged, as opportunity will admit, or improved, by lining them with board, in the nature of

of wainſcot, or lath and plaſter; and the outſide covered with clapboards, and the roof with ſhingles; or, as the perſon is diſpoſed, and his circumſtances will admit, he may, in a future period, build a framed houſe, from ſixty pounds to many hundreds, according to the ſize, and the manner in which it is finiſhed: his firſt houſe may be then uſed for a cattle-houſe. When the perſon has his log-houſe finiſhed, he will find it to his advantage to remove his family into it as early as poſſible, both for convenience and to ſave expence; and of courſe muſt lay in ſuch neceſſaries as he thinks he ſhall want, according to the number of his family. He may form ſome eſtimate of a year's proviſion by the following prices, alluding to the Autumn of 1795: Wheat at 5s. per buſhel; potatoes about 1s. 6d. per buſhel; by a large quantity they have been bought for 1s. per buſhel; beef, mutton, and pork, from 3d. to 4d. per pound, according to the ſeaſon of the year; fowls from 4s. to 8s. per dozen; ducks about 1s. geeſe about 2s. 6d. turkies 5s. each; moſt people raiſe their own poultry. Spruce beer, and rum and water, are the general liquors that are drank here, except water and milk; but as barley and hops grow very well, there can be no doubt but malt liquor will be more generally introduced, which will be far more beneficial to the inhabitants than the pernicious cuſtom of drinking ſpirits, which is generally too prevalent in all America. Cows with calves, in the ſpring of the year, from 5l. to about 6l.; a pair of middling-ſize aged bullocks, that will weigh five or ſix hundred each, may be bought for 14l. to 16l. per pair. Some of the bullocks on this Iſland have weighed upwards of a thouſand weight. Ewes with lambs, in the ſpring of the year, about 20s. to a guinea; ſows with pig, according to their ſize, from 20s. to 40s. The above prices are in the currency of the Iſland: if one-tenth is deducted from theſe ſums, it will reduce it to ſterling. It will be adviſeable, that the new ſettler purchaſes a few poultry, a cow or two, and a ſow, as ſoon as he goes to his farm, by which means he will have eggs,

butter,

butter, and milk for the family; if the farm is an entire woodland farm, the cows will find ſufficient food in the woods, in the Summer and Autumn, and come regularly home to be milked, by keeping the calves up, and giving them a portion of the milk. If there ſhould be no marſh ground to the farm, where fodder may be cut for the Winter, the new ſettler will be obliged to buy hay till he can raiſe ſome from the woodland. When he has purchaſed theſe neceſſaries, he has then to encounter with the moſt difficult part of his farm, which is to begin to clear away the woods. This labour is differently purſued, according to the judgment of different perſons: ſome grub up the ſmall trees and underwood by the roots; theſe are burnt on the ground; and the large trees they girdle, by cutting a rim of the bark round the tree, which kills it, and lets in the ſun to the ground; they then plant potatoes and grain between the trees: but, for the moſt part, the inhabitants cut all the trees down from two to three feet above the ground, and cut them into ten or twelve feet lengths, and pile and burn them. But ſome think the beſt way is, to take a crop or two at moſt off the ground, and then lay it down to graſs; and in a few years, the roots of the ſtumps will get ſufficiently rotten, ſo that a man or two, with two pair of bullocks, and a chain fixed round the tops of the ſtumps, will get up as many in a day as they would in a month were they to attempt it when the ſtumps were green. The new farmer ſhould aim to be there as early in the Spring as poſſible, by which means he may get ſufficient land cleared, at leaſt to get a good crop of potatoes in the ground, and other vegetables: the potatoes would not only ſerve his family, but he might have plenty to keep a ſufficient number of hogs through the Winter, ſo as to ſupply him with meat the enſuing year. He might likewiſe ſow ſome wheat in the Autumn between the ſtumps; ſome hoe it in, others only harrow it in; and ſome there are that will plough between the ſtumps with a ſhort one-handled plough; and good crops have been produced by either method. If the perſon has no

ſons

ſons of his own, capable of aſſiſting him in the labour, he would do well to take a ſtout boy or two with him, who might be indented to him till they were twenty-one years of age: theſe boys would be of great ſervice to a new ſettler, and it would be highly advantageous to themſelves when they were out of their time, as they might then work a ſhort time to acquire a little ſtock, and then they would be far more capable of encountering with a new Farm than any ſtranger who had not been brought up in this country. It is recommended to new ſettlers, to plant an orchard as early as poſſible as the young trees will be growing while the ſtumps are decaying. This has been much neglected by the early ſettlers, and only a few of late years have attended to it. Many of the inhabitants who live in log-houſes, as above deſcribed, ſeem to feel but little emulation to build themſelves better habitations, although they have abundance of property, and opportunity for the purpoſe. This may ariſe either from habit, or from their having been accuſtomed to ſmall cottages in the country they have left. They, however, look rather diſguſting to a ſtranger, who may have been accuſtomed to ſee better farm houſes. Some there are, who, from a kind of indolent turn, when they have cleared ſufficient land to ſubſiſt on, are little concerned about extending their improvements. It is recommended to perſons who may emigrate to this Iſland, to bring their bedding and kitchen utenſils, and as much wearing-apparel as convenient, as the prices on the articles which are brought from England are much advanced, eſpecially in war-time.

In WINTERBOTHAM's Hiſtory of America are the following Remarks, vol. III. p. 299, 300, 301, 302.

" What are the general inducements to quit Europe for " the purpoſe of ſettling in America?—To this Query we " ſhall, *without heſitation*, reply, that the firſt and principal " inducement to an European to quit his native country for

" America,

" America, is THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANXIETY RE-
" SPECTING THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF A FAMILY.

" In England the young man flies to proſtitution, for fear
" of the expenſe of a family eſtabliſhment, and the, *more*
" *than probable*, extravagance of a wife; celibacy is a part of
" prudence; it is openly commended, and as ſteadily prac-
" tiſed as the voice of nature will allow. The married man,
" whoſe paſſions have been ſtronger, whoſe morals have been
" leſs callous, or whoſe intereſt has furniſhed motives to
" matrimony, doubts whether each child be not a misfortune,
" and looks upon his offspring with a melancholy kind of
" affection, that embitters ſome of the otherwiſe moſt plea-
" ſurable moments of his life. There are exceptions to this,
" from great ſucceſs in the purſuits of the father; there are
" exceptions from ſtronger degrees of parental affection;
" and the more ſanguine look forward with ſtronger hope:
" but we have ſeen too much not to be ſatisfied of the per-
" fect truth of this *general* poſition. We do not care what
" may be the ſituation in life of the parents, or the rank
" to which they belong; from the labourer at ſix or ſeven
" ſhillings per week, and many thouſands of ſuch there are
" in Great-Britain, to the peer of twenty-five thouſand
" pounds per annum; through many intermediate links we
" have had too frequent occaſion to obſerve this melancholy
" fact.

" In the former inſtance, the labourer conſoles himſelf,
" with tears in his eyes, for the loſs of his children, becauſe
" *he has one or more leſs to provide for*; and, in the ſecond in-
" ſtance, his lordſhip retrenches his pleaſures *becauſe he has*
" *a large family.*

" In America, particularly out of the large towns, no man
" of moderate deſires feels anxious about a family. In the
" country,

" country, where the maſs of the people dwell, every man " feels the increaſe of his family to be the increaſe of his " riches: and no farmer doubts about the facility of pro- " viding for his children as comfortably as they have lived, " where land is ſo cheap and ſo fertile, where ſociety is " ſo much on an equality, and where the prodigious in- " creaſe of population, from natural and accidental cauſes, " and the improving ſtate of every part of the country, fur- " niſhes a market for whatever ſuperfluous produce he chuſes " to raiſe, without preſenting inceſſantly that temptation to " artificial expence and extravagant competition ſo common " and ſo ruinous in European countries.

" In Great-Britain, PERPETUAL EXERTION, INCES- " SANT, UNREMITTING INDUSTRY, DAILY DEPRIVA- " TION OF THE COMFORTS OF LIFE, and anxious atten- " tion to minute frugality, are almoſt incumbent on a man " of moderate fortune, and in the middle claſs of life: and " the probabilities of ultimate ſucceſs are certainly againſt " a large family. In England, no man has a right, calcu- " lating upon the common chances, to expect that five or " ſix children ſhall all ſucceed, however virtuous or induſ- " trious they may be.

" In America it is otherwiſe; you may reaſonably reckon " upon a comfortable ſettlement, according to your ſituation " in life, for every part of a family, however numerous. " There is nothing in European countries equivalent to the " taking off this weight upon the mind of a father of " a family. It is felt in the occurrences of every day. " Mr. Cooper remarks, he has ſeen with pleaſure the coun- " tenance of an European emigrant, in America, brighten " up on this very comfortable reflection; a reflection " which conſoles even for loſs of friends, and exile from a " native country.

" In England, if a man has been pecuniarily unfortunate, " the eager crowd preſs on and trample over him, and, once " down, he is kept down. In America, a falſe ſtep is " irretrievable, there is room to get up again; and the leſs " unfortunate ſtumbler looks round at leiſure, and without " diſmay, for ſome more profitable path to be purſued. In " England, every employment is full, we are preſſed and " elbowed on all ſides: in America, every employment has " room for induſtry, and for many years almoſt every ſpe- " cies of induſtry muſt be ſucceſsful."

Impartial perſons will not conſider the above remarks, of Winterbotham, as exceeding the truth; for it is a well-known fact, that a great number of the tradeſmen of England, who make conſiderable appearances in life, from a kind of neceſſity, are carrying on their different employments with the moſt diſtreſſing anxiety; and if a few, among the many, ſurmount theſe difficulties, after many years perſeverance they may, at laſt, be ſo fortunate as to acquire a ſufficient ſum of money to enable them to put all, or moſt of their children, in the ſame perplexing ſituation.

In BUCHAN's highly-eſteemed Treatiſe on Domeſtic Medicine are the following Remarks, treating on the Laborious and Sedentary.

" Though nothing can be more contrary to the nature " of man than a ſedentary life, yet this claſs comprehends " the far greater part of the ſpecies. Almoſt the whole " female world, and, in manufacturing countries, the major " part of the males, may be reckoned ſedentary. Agricul- " ture, the firſt and moſt healthful of all employments, is " now followed by few who are able to carry on any other " buſineſs. But thoſe who imagine that the culture of the

" earth

" earth is not ſufficient to employ all its inhabitants, are " greatly miſtaken. An ancient Roman, we are told, could " maintain his family from the produce of one acre of " ground: ſo might a modern Briton, if he would be con- " tented to live like a Roman. This ſhews what an immenſe " increaſe of inhabitants Britain might admit of, and all of " them live by the culture of the ground.

" Agriculture is the great ſource of domeſtic riches. " Where it is neglected, whatever wealth may be imported " from abroad, poverty and miſery will abound at home. " Such is, and ever will be, the fluctuating ſtate of trade and " manufactures, that thouſands of people may be in full em- " ployment to-day, and in beggary to-morrow. This can " never happen to thoſe who cultivate the ground; they can " eat the fruit of their labour, and can always, by induſtry, " obtain at leaſt the neceſſaries of life.

" Labouring the ground is every way conducive to health. " It not only gives exerciſe to every part of the body, but " the very ſmell of the earth, and freſh herbs, revives and " cheers the ſpirits, whilſt the perpetual proſpect of ſome- " thing coming to maturity delights and entertains the mind. " We are ſo formed as to be always pleaſed with ſomewhat " in proſpect, however diſtant or however trivial. Hence " the happineſs that moſt men feel, in planting, ſowing, " building, &c. Theſe ſeem to have been the chief employ- " ments of the more early ages; and when Kings and " Conquerors cultivated the ground, there is reaſon to be- " lieve that they knew as well wherein true happineſs con- " ſiſted as we do."

This is not only true in theory, but it is confirmed by daily obſervation, that many eminent perſons in great cities, after they have been giving their attention to buſineſs the

greater part of their lives, are generally retiring to theſe rural employments, as moſt congenial to human felicity; eſpecially to a religious mind, which may enjoy ſuch ſatisfaction in contemplating the wiſdom and goodneſs of God, in the ordinary operations of the works of nature, in ſuch innocent and harmleſs ſimplicity, compared with the artifice and deceptive contrivance which the mind is engaged in, in making and vending moſt of the works of art, which, through the numerous competitors of every calling, operate nearly as forcibly as the laws of neceſſity; ſo that we "may be ſeeking death in the errors of life, and bringing "upon ourſelves deſtruction with the works of our hands."

As the proper object of all well-directed Governments is to make every part of the Community as comfortable as the nature of circumſtances will admit of, it cannot but be a matter of ſome importance to conſider the diſtreſſed ſituation of a very numerous claſs of induſtrious, well-diſpoſed, but unemployed people, and to endeavour to point out, for the conſideration of Government, ſome plan for their relief; which, it is preſumed, is not foreign to the preceding remarks.

The unforeſeen occurrences of the war, and other circumſtances, have made the preſſure of burdens ſo heavy, as to reduce a large portion of the induſtrious community of this country to great diſtreſs. Many Artiſts, of various deſcriptions, are at this time out of employment, through the neceſſary œconomy which the higher and middling ranks of people think expedient to adopt. In the manufacturing parts of the country, ſince the great improvements of machinery have been ſo generally introduced, there are a great many that are entirely deprived of employment. Some are enliſted for ſoldiers, and their families ſupported by the pariſhes: this bears extremely hard on the

the middling claſs of induſtrious people, who are put to great inconvenience to ſupport the growing burdens of pariſh rates. The continuance of the war muſt neceſſarily increaſe theſe burdens; and the return of peace, it is generally feared, will not ſo alleviate them, as to give the deſired relief. Ought it not then to be conſidered, that when thoſe people who have been inured to arms are diſcharged, and who are both able and willing to work, but can get no employ, whether they may not be naturally led to look upon the introduction of machinery as one of the ſources of their unhappy ſituation, and be imprudently led, as in former inſtances, to unite in different bodies, for the purpoſe of deſtroying thoſe ingenious and uſeful inventions? In ſuch caſes, a great deal of miſchief might enſue, without even the proſpect of affording any ſalutary relief to the aggreſſors. For if theſe machines were entirely aboliſhed, and the old ſyſtem of manufactories again introduced, the artiſts might ſoon carry their improvements into foreign countries, which would eventually be ſtill more fatal to the employment of the labouring poor, as well as highly injurious to the commerce of the country, as foreigners would then be able to render their manufactures at a lower price, and would of courſe monopolize the trade. If many of theſe manufacturers, for want of employment, are driven into foreign countries, it would alſo prove extremely hurtful to this country.

Should it not therefore be an object worthy the attention of leading men, to conſider of the beſt mode of remedying this evil, and whether a better plan could not be deviſed, than ſending theſe induſtrious but unemployed people to the Britiſh Colonies in America, with a few years proviſion, and ſome working implements to begin with, according to the plan adopted with reſpect to the Loyaliſts and diſbanded ſoldiers at the cloſe of the American War? This would place them in a

ſituation

ſituation where they might ſoon help themſelves; and although moſt of them may not have been uſed to huſbandry, they would be ſuch kind of farmers as America has been originally peopled with. This would not only make theſe people happy, and remove the occaſion of a conſiderable ſtimulus to diſorder, but it would likewiſe eaſe the community of a conſiderable part of the burdens of pariſh rates, and make the other preſſure of taxes more eaſy to bear; and theſe new Colonies, formed by the emigrations from different parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, might rapidly increaſe the conſumption of our manufactures, which would form a plan of reciprocal benefit, and preſerve a mutual and laſting attachment.

THE END.

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM